

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158339

REFS: ROME 8416, ROME A-273, JUNE 11, 1975

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 158339 ACTION ROME 3 JULY.

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 158339

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, IT, LY

SUBJECT: LIBYAN INTEREST IN ADDITIONAL AGUSTA HELICOPTERS

1. THE DEPARTMENT HAS STUDIED CAREFULLY COUNT AGUSTA'S LETTER OF MAY 28, CONCERNING TWO PROPOSED SALES OF HELICOPTERS TO LIBYA. THE FIRST SALE WOULD INVOLVE TWENTY THREE AB-212 HELICOPTERS. THE SECOND INVOLVES A TOTAL OF SIXTY THREE HELICOPTERS: 20 SH-3D ASW, 20 CH-47C, 20 205/212, AND 3 AB-206. AFTER A CAREFUL REVIEW OF ALL ASPECTS OF THE SITUATION, THE DEPARTMENT HAS CONCLUDED THAT THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN US-LIBYAN RELATIONS WHICH WOULD JUSTIFY ANY CHANGE IN OUR POSITION ON

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THE EXPORT OF HELICOPTERS TO LIBYA.

2. IN REPLYING TO AGUSTA'S LETTER, THE AMBASSADOR MAY WISH
TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING POINTS:

A. THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FULLY APPRECIATES THE CONCERNS OF THE AGUSTA COMPANY WITH REGARD TO THE SALE OF HELICOPTERS TO LIBYA. WHILE WE WOULD LIKE TO ACCOMMODATE THESE CONCERNS, WE FEEL THAT IT WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH THE OVERALL STATE OF US-LIBYAN RELATIONS TO APPROVE SUCH A SALE AT THIS TIME.

B. THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT EXPORT THIS EQUIPMENT TO LIBYA AND US LAW STIPULATES THAT WE CANNOT APPROVE SUCH THIRD-COUNTRY TRANSFERS UNLESS THE USG ITSELF WOULD TRANSFER THE ITEMS CONCERNED.

C. THE US GOVERNMENT CONTINUES TO KEEP THE QUESTION UNDER REVIEW AND FOR THE TIME BEING WISHES TO CONTINUE TO DEFER A DECISION IN THIS MATTER. SISCO UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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